



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Douglas M. Duncan
County Executive

November 2, 2005

David W. Edgerley
Director

Dear Rural Landowner:

Re: Deer Donation Program

You may recall that in the early part of 2005, in response to farmers' concerns about deer overpopulation, Montgomery County launched a Deer Donation Program to encourage a higher deer harvest on private lands within the County. The program was developed to provide farmers and hunters with a place to take deer harvested after all personal-use options have been exhausted, thereby encouraging higher deer harvests on private property. This hunting season, the Deer Donation Program will allow hunters and farmers to take better advantage of this venison donation opportunity.

Montgomery County has once again partnered with Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH) to process deer and donate the venison for distribution to food banks in our area. FHFH, whose headquarters are based in Maryland, is a nationwide organization that enables farmers and hunters to donate deer to the hungry at little or no cost to themselves. For more information about FHFH, visit <http://www.fhfh.org>. By providing a free drop-off point for harvested deer that is closer than any current FHFH-participating butcher shop, the County hopes to give hunters more incentive to return to the field even after their own venison needs have been met.

Montgomery County's Agricultural Services Division, Deer Management Work Group and elected officials have also been working to broaden hunting opportunities within the County. Thanks to these efforts, Maryland's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has launched a two-year pilot program to allow Montgomery County deer management permit holders and their agents to use the weapon of choice rather than the weapon of season in their deer management efforts. Since this program gives Montgomery County farmers the opportunity to use "the best tool for the job," the County expects deer harvest rates on private lands to rise as farmers actively participate in curtailing our deer overpopulation problem. In view of this new pilot program, it is strongly recommended that you contact Mr. Thomas Decker at 301-258-0817 to obtain specific details and procedures regarding deer management permits.

After much resident and government pressure, DNR has also developed a proposal for expanded hunts in Seneca Creek State Park. Montgomery County has encouraged DNR to promote the Deer Donation Program as part of this deer management initiative, and

Agricultural Services Division

18410 Muncaster Road • Derwood, Maryland 20855 • 301/590-2823, FAX 301/590-2839

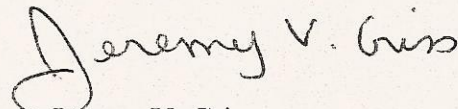
to promote the Deer Donation Program as part of this deer management initiative, and hopes that hunters who take part in this and other public land hunts will donate harvested deer to help the hungry.

The Deer Donation Program will run from November 2005 through January of 2006 to allow both sport hunters and those hunting on deer management permits to take advantage of this donation opportunity. The program's cold-box is located at 20301 Whites Ferry Road in Poolesville, Md. Donation drop-off is by appointment only with Tom Wiles, Jr. between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday except holidays. Please take care to follow all the guidelines and instructions provided on the attached Deer Donation Program flyer as you or your hunters prepare and drop off deer for donation. Do not put deer in the cold-box without permission from Mr. Wiles, or leave them outside unattended.

Depending on the success of the existing program and on interest expressed by the eastern side of the County, a second cold-box may begin operation near Laytonsville to accommodate deer management permit holders on farms in that area. Farmers will be notified in the event a new cold-box is put in place.

If you have any questions about the Deer Donation Program, please feel free to call me at 301-590-2830. For donation drop-off details, or to make a drop-off appointment, please call Tom Wiles, Jr. at 301-922-2496. To apply for or renew your DNR deer management permit, please call Thomas Decker at 301-258-0817. If you are not a hunter or do not allow hunting on your property and wish to have your name removed from the Deer Management Program mailing list, please contact Agata Newlacil at 301-590-2818 or agata.newlacil@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jeremy V. Criss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeremy" being more prominent.

Jeremy V. Criss,
Agricultural Services Manager

Attachment: Montgomery County Deer Donation Program flyer

cc: Mike Slattery, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Thomas Decker, Department of Natural Resources
Rob Gibbs, Deer Management Work Group

Donate Deer to Feed the Hungry

at

20301 Whites Ferry Road, Poolesville MD

Phone: 301-922-2496

from November of 2005 through January of 2006

All deer will be inspected by Tom Wiles, Jr. before being put in the cold box in preparation for transport to a game processing facility. Mr. Wiles reserves the right to turn away any deer found unsuitable for donation. Please **DO NOT** put deer in the cold box yourself, or leave them outside unattended. *Drop-off is by appointment only.*

**Please call Tom Wiles, Jr. at 301-922-2496 between 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Monday thru Saturday except Holidays to make an appointment for donation drop-off.**

Deer must:

- be checked via the DNR Internet or telephone check-in system
- be correctly tagged as per DNR requirements for in-season hunting and crop damage permits
- be completely field-dressed
- be hosed out if the contents of the digestive tract have been introduced into the body cavity (ex. if the stomach or intestines have ruptured)
- be in good condition

Deer will be processed and distributed to the hungry via local food banks in partnership with Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry.

For additional information and details on the Deer Donation Program, please contact the County's Agricultural Services Division at 301-590-2823. For drop-off appointments and details, please call 301-922-2496



Department of Economic Development
Agricultural Services Division

